

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Secret

25X1

imagery analysis report

Military Activity Summary Iraq/Iran Forward Area



25X1

Secret

WNINTEL

Z-14556/82
IAR-0043/82
APRIL 1982
Copy 178

Page Denied

SECRET

25X1

MILITARY ACTIVITY SUMMARY IRAQ/IRAN FORWARD AREA

25X1

1. (S/WN) This report is the most recent¹ in a series of imagery-derived reports on the Iraq/Iran conflict. The report discusses the major Iranian offensive in the Dezful/Shush forward area (Figure 1) during the period []

25X1

2. (S/WN) Military unit designators and subordination (where used) are derived from collateral sources.² Acronyms and abbreviations are defined in a glossary at the end of the report. Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

OVERVIEW

3. (S/WN) Iranian infantry forces, supported by elements of two armor brigades and artillery, launched an attack against Iraqi forces west of the Karkheh River in the Dezful/Shush area between [] This attack forced the Iraqis to reinforce their units and subsequently retreat to new defensive positions along the Iraq/Iran border.

25X1

25X1

DEZFUL/SHUSH FORWARD AREA

4. (S/WN) Between [] Iranian forces launched major offensives from the north and south against Iraqi forces deployed 26 nm west of Dezful and 21 nm southwest of Shush (Figure 2). This offensive forced a major Iraqi withdrawal and subsequent redeployment to new defensive positions in Iran within 12 nm of the Iraq/Iran border. As a result of this operation, the Iranians were able to advance west along a 40-nm front and reclaim approximately 800 square nm of territory that had been controlled by Iraqi forces since the early days of the Iraq/Iran conflict.

25X1

5. (S/WN) Iranian forces involved in the northern offensive included a large infantry force supported by major elements of one armor brigade, one tank company, one armored reconnaissance company, two M-109A1 SPG battalions, one M-107 SPG battery, one FA battalion, two FA batteries, one support and transport unit, and one engineering unit. By [] lead elements of these forces had advanced 6 nm south and 2 nm west from their previous position 21 nm west of Dezful, forcing an Iraqi armor brigade to withdraw and redeploy 31 nm west of Dezful.

25X1

6. (S/WN) Iranian forces involved in the southern offensive included a large infantry force supported by major elements of one armor brigade, one armored reconnaissance company, two M-109A1 SPG battalions, two FA battalions, one helicopter unit, and one CP. By [] this force had advanced on two fronts to positions 10 and 12 nm southwest of Shush and forced the opposing Iraqi forces to withdraw to new defensive positions 1 to 4 nm to the northwest.

25X1

7. (S/WN) On [] Iranian forces deployed on the east bank of the Karkheh River in support of the offensive included one tank company, one mechanized infantry company, two M-109A1 SPG batteries, two M-107 SPG batteries, one FA battalion, two FA batteries, one CP, one heavy-lift transport unit, one support and transport unit, and one infantry unit.

25X1

8. (S/WN) Four major concentrations of Iraqi forces were deployed west of the Karkheh River on [] Lead elements of one Iraqi armor brigade and one infantry unit were deployed in an area 31 nm west of Dezful. These forces redeployed to this area after [] as a result of the Iranian offensive. By [] these forces had been forced to withdraw from this new deployment area.

25X1

25X1

25X1

9. (S/WN) A second Iraqi force, whose lead elements were deployed approximately 19 nm northwest of Shush on [] consisted of one armor brigade, one FA battalion, and one infantry unit. These forces, deployed along a northwest/southeast axis to reinforce the armor brigade deployed to the northwest, had been forced to withdraw from this area by []

25X1

25X1

10. (S/WN) Three Iraqi brigade-sized armor units, three FA battalions, one MRL battery, one SA-6 SAM battalion, one engineering unit, and one infantry unit were deployed in an area between 12 nm northwest and 11.5 nm southwest of Shush on [] These forces had been forced to withdraw from this area by []

25X1

25X1

11. (S/WN) One Iraqi armor brigade, one tank battalion, one mechanized infantry battalion, two FA battalions, one MRL battery, two SA-6 battalions, one heavy-lift transport unit, one CP, one helicopter unit, and two infantry units were deployed 15 nm west-southwest of Shush on [] Elements of the armor brigade were parked in convoy formation near the rear of the deployment area and appeared to be departing the area (Figure 3). The remaining elements of these units were forced to withdraw 9 nm to the northwest between [] Additional artillery support for these forces, consisting of two FA battalions, was deployed approximately 25 nm west-southwest of Shush.

25X1

25X1

12. (S/WN) By [] Iraqi forces had been forced to withdraw from positions they had occupied since October 1980 and redeploy to new defensive positions 20 nm further to the west. Between []

25X1

25X1

SECRET

[redacted] Iranian and reinforced Iraqi forces were observed redeploying and consolidating their forces in the forward area (Figure 4). Iranian forces, whose lead elements were deployed in an area 37 nm west of Dezful, consisted of a large infantry force supported by one tank company, one armored reconnaissance company, one M-109A1 SPG battery, and two FA batteries. An additional Iranian force, deployed 10 nm to the northwest of these forces, included one tank battalion, one mechanized infantry company, two FA batteries, and one infantry unit. 25X1

13. (S/WN) Iranian forces, whose lead elements were deployed 20 nm southwest of Shush, consisted of one tank battalion, two tank companies, two M-109A1 SPG batteries, one M-107 SPG battery, two FA batteries, and one infantry unit. Elements of the two tank companies were deployed along an earthen berm in the area (Figure 5).

14. (S/WN) Iranian forces were deployed to the rear of the advancing forces along a line from 24 nm west-northwest of Dezful to 14 nm southwest of Shush, west of the Karkheh River. They consisted of four tank companies, one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry company, two mechanized infantry platoons, one M-109A1 SPG battery, one M-107 SPG battery, three FA batteries, and two support and transport units.

15. (S/WN) Supporting Iranian forces, deployed on the east bank of the Karkheh River, consisted of two tank companies, two mechanized infantry companies, two mechanized infantry platoons, one M-109A1 SPG battalion, one M-107 SPG battery, and one heavy-lift transport unit. Additionally, captured Iraqi military equipment from the Iranian offensive was observed at Dezful Military Park [redacted] on [redacted]. The captured equipment consisted of five T-54/55 tanks, four medium tanks, two OT-62 APCs, 11 BTR-60 APCs, one BMP APC, seven BRDM-2s, fifteen 122mm D-30 howitzers, eight 85/100mm antitank guns, and three probable 57mm S-60 AAA pieces (Figure 6; not all equipment annotated on graphic). 25X1 25X1

16. (S/WN) Iraqi forces deployed along the FEBA near the Iraq/Iran border, between 40 nm north-northeast and 31 nm east of Al Amarah, consisted of major elements of one armor division (possibly the 3rd Armor Division), four armor brigades, one mechanized infantry brigade, and supporting units. Elements of two additional Iraqi mechanized infantry brigades (possibly elements of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division) and supporting units were deployed west of these forces.

17. (S/WN) An Iraqi armor division, one M-1974 SPG battalion, six FA battalions, one MRL battery, and one infantry unit were deployed in Iran, 12 nm east of the Iraq/Iran border and 21 nm west of Shush. Two additional armor brigades, five FA battalions, two FA batteries, one MRL battery, and one CP were deployed immediately west of the Iraq/Iran border, south of the armor division and 31 nm east of Al Amarah. One SA-2 battalion was deployed southwest of these forces, 21 nm east-southeast of Al Amarah. A supporting Iraqi force, consisting of elements of one mechanized infantry brigade, one large infantry unit, one FA battalion, three SA-6 battalions, one armored mobile field hospital unit, two heavy-lift transport units, one support and transport unit, and one CP, was deployed in Iraq west-southwest of the armor division and 20 nm northeast of Al Amarah.

18. (S/WN) Iraqi forces were deployed in Iran between 40 nm north-northeast and 34 nm northeast of Al Amarah along the west bank of the Doveyrij River. They consisted of elements of two armor brigades, one mechanized infantry brigade, and two infantry units. Elements of one tank company and one mechanized infantry platoon remained deployed on the east bank of the Doveyrij River. A large earthen berm was under construction west of the Doveyrij River (Figure 7). Supporting units for these forces, consisting of four FA battalions, one MRL battery, two SA-6 battalions, one support and transport unit, and one CP, were deployed to the west and southwest of the three brigades along the Iraq/Iran border, 34 nm north-northeast of Al Amarah. An additional Iraqi force, consisting of elements of one mechanized infantry brigade, two FA battalions, one SA-2 battalion, one support and transport unit, and one CP, were deployed in Iraq, 26 nm north-northeast of Al Amarah.

19. (S/WN) A probable corps headquarters and one helicopter unit were deployed approximately 3 nm southwest of Al Amarah.

SECRET

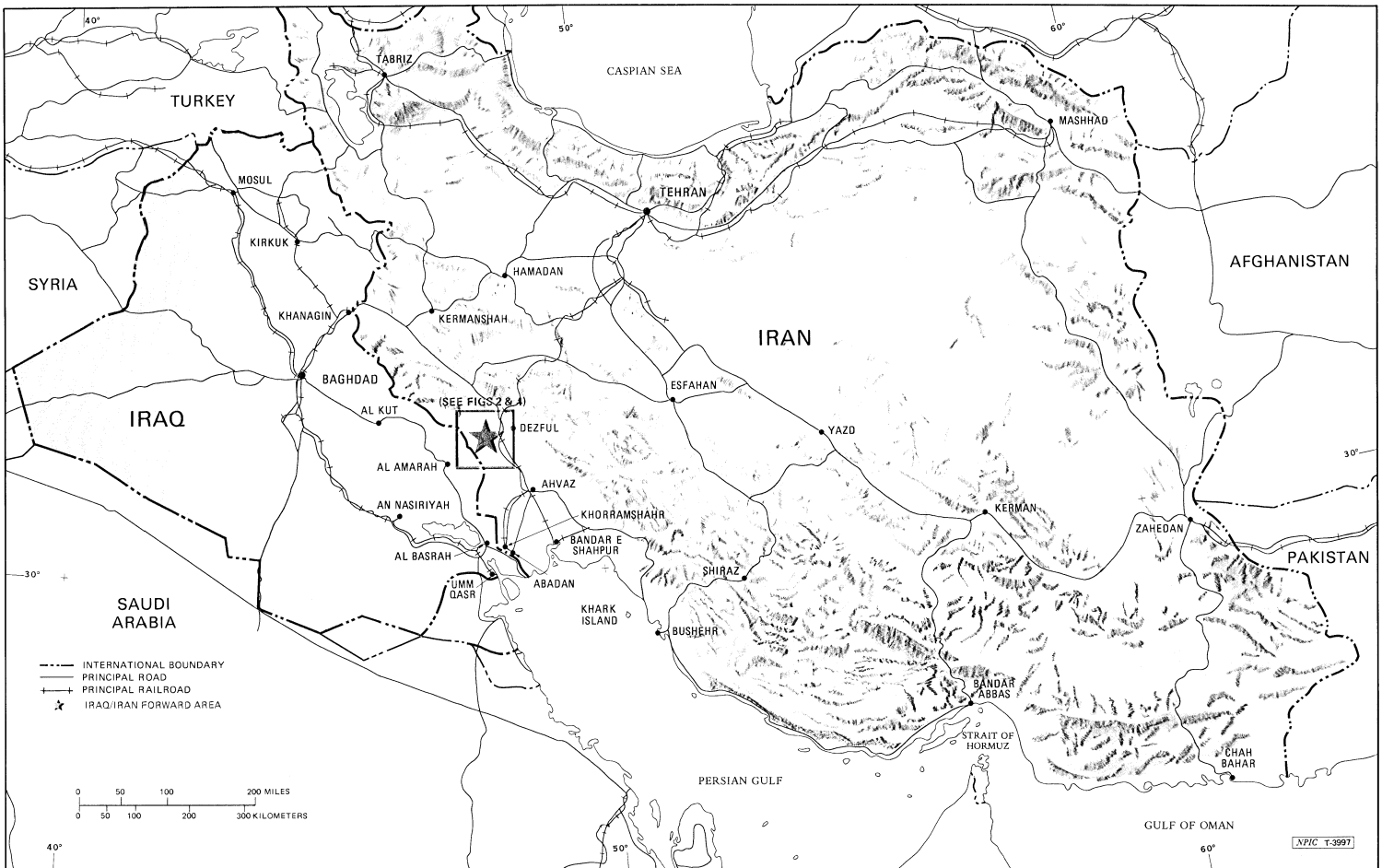


FIGURE 1. IRAQ/IRAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

Reverse side blank

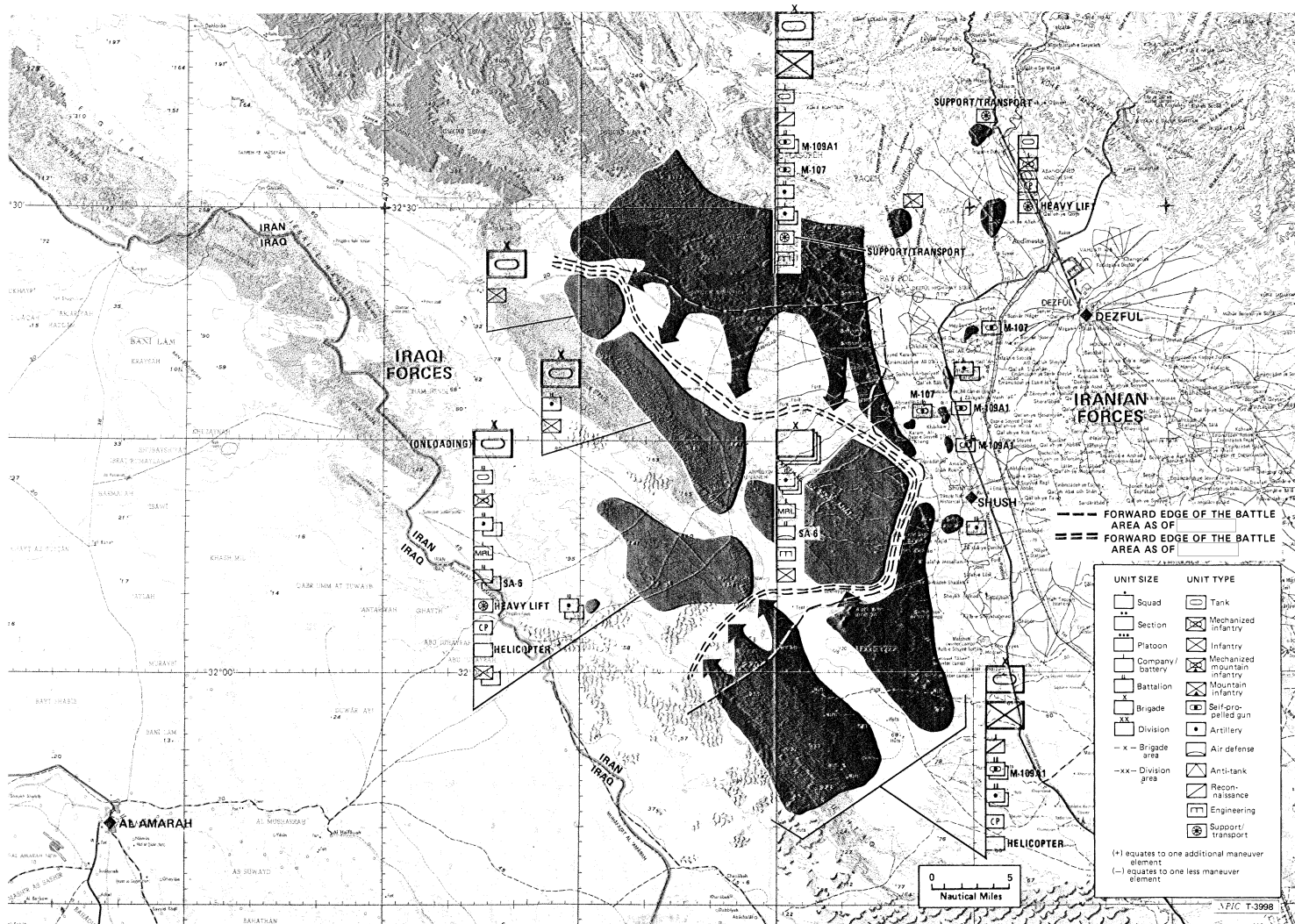


FIGURE 2: GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, DEZFUL/SHUSH AREA, IRAN, AS OF

Reverse side blank

SECRET

25X1
25X1

25X1

Page Denied

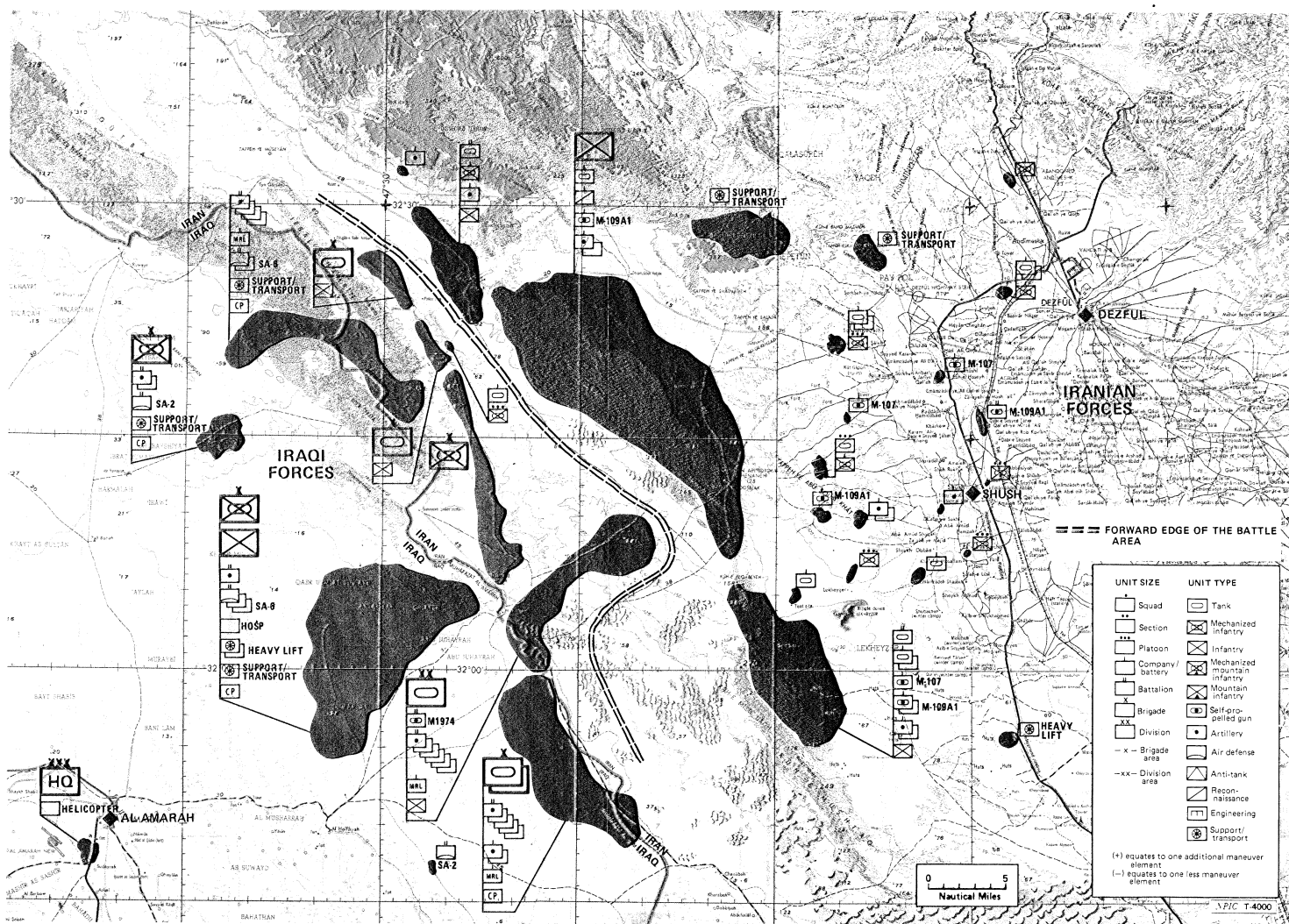


FIGURE 4. COMPOSITE OF GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, DEZFUL/SHUSH AREA, IRAN, 31 MARCH - 10 APRIL 1982

Reverse side blank

Page Denied

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1'

MAPS OR CHARTS

DOD. Joint Operation Graphics, Various Sheets (UNCLASSIFIED, Distribution Restricted)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. Z-20162/81, IAR-0203/81, *Military Activity Summary, Iraq/Iran Forward Area, 5 September—5 October 1981 (S)*, 8 Oct 81 (SECRET, []) 25X1
2. DIA. DDB-1100-IZ-81, *Ground Order of Battle: Iraq (U)*, Mar 81 (SECRET, []) 25X1
[] 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to the Persian Gulf Section, South Asia/Arabia Branch, Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] 25X1
[] 25X1

SECRET**GLOSSARY OF
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS***This glossary in its entirety is UNCLASSIFIED*

AA	Antiaircraft
AAA	Antiaircraft artillery
AD	Air defense
AOR	Replenishment oiler
APB	Barracks ship
APC	Armored personnel carrier
AR	Repair ship
ARD-D	Floating drydock
ARD-T	Auxiliary repair dock
AW	Air warning
AWT	Water carrier
AX	Training ship
CP	Command post
DD	Destroyer
DDG	Guided missile destroyer
DIW	Dead in the water
ECM	Electronics countermeasure
EW	Early warning
FA	Field artillery
FEBA	Forward edge of battle area
FFG	Guided missile frigate
GCI	Ground controlled intercept
GSP	Heavy amphibious ferry
LCM	Medium landing craft
LCMA	Medium landing craft (air cushion)
LCU	Utility landing craft
LSM	Medium amphibious assault landing ship
LST	Amphibious vehicle landing ship
MRL	Multiple rocket launcher
MSC	Coastal minesweeper
MSF	Fleet minesweeper
MSI	Inshore minesweeper
NM	Nautical mile(s)
PB	Patrol boat
PBA	Patrol boat (air cushion)
PBR	River/roadstead patrol boat
PC	Patrol craft
PCL	Small submarine chaser
PCS	Submarine chaser
PG	Patrol escort
PGM	Motor gunboat
PMP	Heavy folding ponton bridge
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricant
PRTB	Missile assembly and checkout facility
PT	Torpedo boat
PTG	Missile attack boat
PTS	Tracked amphibian
RTP	Rail-to-road transfer point
RO/RO	Roll-on/roll-off
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SP	Self-propelled
SPAA	Self-propelled antiaircraft
SPG	Self-propelled gun
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile
TEL	Transporter-erector-launcher
TELR	Transporter-erector-launcher radar
TMM	Truck-mounted bridge
VLCC	Very large crude carrier

Secret

Secret